

TAs strike for positive action; Dean Vogel willing to talk

by Justin Loughry

Pickets outside Dawson Hall and suspended classes heralded the first day of the strike by teaching assistants yesterday in the Faculty of Arts. Forty to fifty TAs and their supporters paced below the offices of the Dean of Arts yesterday morning and in the early afternoon, seeking "serious discussions" of demands left unsettled after last week's announced pay hike for Arts TAs.

Members of the McGill Teaching Assistants Association (MTAA) involved in the walk-out are asking for "positive response" from Dean Vogel or other Administration authorities on cost-of-living increases, job security, more money for TA lecturers, and other matters untouched by last week's wage offer.

After a meeting with Dean Vogel on January 19, the Coordinating Council of the MTAA sent him seven proposals in a letter dated January 22. On the twenty-seventh the Dean agreed to a meeting the next morning. Due to short notice, the suggested meeting fell through and the impasse between the Dean and the MTAA persisted.

Dean Vogel has maintained throughout that he "is willing to

talk with them (the MTAA) anytime." Contacted last evening, he said that he was "hurt to the quick" by yesterday's events.

"He claimed he had no notice that a strike would occur until a Gazette reporter contacted him Tuesday evening. (Monday's Daily, carrying the strike story, was unavailable until late Tuesday.)

"It's tough when you're confronted with this kind of escalation," continued the Dean. "I'm surprised that people went on strike when the basic problem, at least in my assessment, had been met."

What the Dean sees as the "basic problem" is an equalization of TA salaries throughout the faculty, involving at least some upgrading for all affected TAs.

"The \$3750 figure (which was announced last week) was carefully thought out," said Vogel, in terms of the total needs of TAs in the faculty. It was large enough that no one involved would not get something, and not so large that it would be unmanageable."

What has rankled TAs and led to yesterday's strike action is the lack of administration action on other issues, like a

cost-of-living clause. The MTAA argues that a cost-of-living clause is necessary to protect their salaries from future erosion by inflation. Annual deterioration of real income of by over 20 per cent has been estimated.

Dean Vogel has expressed his support for a Senate recommendation that favours increasing TA salaries on levels commensurate with rises in the cost of living. But he underscores that he has no authority to reach a settlement on the question. Regarding the COLA clause, the Dean remarks, "All the guarantees I can give the TAs I have given them."

Vogel holds the same position on the question of job security. Although he is willing to set up a meeting with a group of faculty from the various departments to seek a solution at the departmental level, he insists that he "cannot interfere with hiring in the departments." TAs are seeking uniform guidelines that will guarantee teaching assistants a job for a certain number of years, depending upon the graduate program in which they are enrolled.

Signs of support for the TA action emerged from a number



If you want to have well-taught conferences, corrected papers, and ultimately marks, come and support your TA's on the picket lines.

of directions as the first day of the strike wore on. The McGill Faculty Union passed a resolution of support for MTAA demands yesterday while a number of students and a few faculty members joined the picket lines outside Dawson Hall.

In other faculties teaching assistants have made some preliminary moves toward action based on MTAA demands in Arts. TAs in psychology voted last week to consider some unspecified action if by February 20 discussions have not been undertaken toward including them in increases granted to Arts TAs.

In the Faculty of Education, fifteen of sixteen TAs signed a letter to Dean Flower, dated Feb 3, supporting MTAA demands and requesting the application of guidelines based on those demands to their salaries. Currently TAs in Education receive

under \$2,000 annual remuneration for what is considered a normal workload (10 hours per week.)

Student reaction to the TA strike was difficult to gauge yesterday. Students taking courses with TAs are missing one or more contact hours per week.

Questioned about inconvenience to students which will result from the walk-out, Economics TA Pierre Pacquette remarked, "It's unfortunate that such serious actions have to be undertaken for the Administration to deal with this problem in a proper manner." TA George Nakitsas added, "We feel that the inconvenience caused to students is not only caused by the TA action, but is also a result of attitudes of other groups within the University. Students should realize that these problems have been with TAs for over three years."

for outside organizations at events on the campus, and Gertrude's has operated with only quasi-legal grounds, if that.

For these reasons the Carnival Committee expects liquor inspection to be extra tight during the Snow-Show.

Bernier said that there was still "a chance for an eleventh hour permit for the last few events. We just don't know."

Other universities in the pro-

that closed Gertrude's. It all began with a law passed in Quebec City last August 13 limiting universities to twelve liquor permits a year. "But nothing was done about the law," said Bernier, "until after January 1."

Gertrude's never had a permanent liquor licence. Instead it ran on a series of daily permits, as did the Cafe Campus at Université de Montréal. This practice was not exactly legal, but not uncommon.

The university is now applying for a permanent reception permit under which it could run Gertrude's and all other functions where liquor is served.

According to Bernier, however, "When you apply for a permanent licence all temporary licences and applications for temporary licences are suspended." This is why Carnival cannot get its temporary permit.

McGill filed for a permanent

licence on January 21. Upon receipt of the application the government must place a public notice in the newspaper. For a 15-day period after the notice appears, individuals are allowed to object to the permit's being issued.

If there are any objections a hearing is held, and if not, the licence may be approved. It is not known if the government has yet given public notice of the application.

In a meeting with Dr. Leo Yaffe, Vice-Principal (Administration), Bernier and other Carnival organizers were assured that "the University has done all it can" to process the application.

Several events have put McGill in poor stead with the Quebec Liquor Corporation, which must ultimately grant the licence. Various groups have operated bars with no permits at all, McGill groups have fronted

A liquor-dry Winter Carnival; there'll be no beer to cry into

by George Kopp
and Jeff Kessler

McGill's 1976 Winter Carnival, the "Snow-Show," will be dry. After weeks of uncertainty, word has been received yesterday that no temporary permits for Carnival will be forthcoming.

"We can't even run on a BYOB basis," says Mark Bernier, of the Snow-Show Coordinating Committee "because in a public place like McGill that's considered serving liquor, for which you need a permit. If anybody tries to pull a fast one it could jeopardize McGill's chances forever to get a permanent liquor permit."

"It's quite a disappointment," said Bernier. "We hope everyone will come out and support the events anyway. We and many others have committed ourselves to the Carnival."

Carnival has been debuzzed by the same series of events

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Feb. 12 **Marriage from the Outside**, Rev. Lawrence Scyner, marriage counsellor and Director of Social Services, Anglican Diocese of Mtl.

Feb. 19 **Single by Choice**, Ton Furlong and Dee Thomas, faculty members, Department of Nursing, Vanier CEGEP and Penny Cale, Social worker, Catholic Family and Children's Services.

Feb. 26 **Are good Parents Born or Made?** Lettie Cox, marriage Counsellor, Mental Hygiene Institute of Montreal.

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Nominations for the Scarlet Key "AWARD" will be accepted up until February 16, 1976. Nominees should show qualities of distinction and character in some combination of academics, activities and athletics. The "AWARD" is McGill's only recognition to those students, MALE AND FEMALE, who have contributed to McGill life outside of their academic program.

Nomination papers should include name, address and telephone number, plus other pertinent information of the nominee, or pick up application forms from the Union Box Office. All applications should be placed in the Scarlet Key box at the Student Union, or sent to George Archer, Scarlet Key Coordinator, c/o The Graduates' Society, 3605 Mountain Street, Montreal H3G 2M1, Quebec.

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**NEXT COURSE STARTS
FEB. 23**

Save Montreal hits city's zoning laws

by Richard Vincent

The zoning by-laws proposed by the City of Montreal Executive Committee last week were blasted as totally inadequate by Save Montreal at a press conference Tuesday.

The proposed zoning regulations would restrict building heights to three or four floors on most streets, making it unprofitable for developers to demolish buildings and replace them by high rises.

Michael Fish, spokesman for Save Montreal, criticized the limited nature of the zoning by-laws proposals. The proposals are limited to two areas; the rectangle formed by Atwater, Sherbrooke, Guy and Dorchester and the area east of University Street and the City of Outremont and north of Sherbrooke Street to the CP railway tracks.

The city centre, which is being ravaged by speculators and developers, and many neighbourhoods, like Chinatown, the Golden Square Mile and the Recollets suburb, will not even have the limited protection

offered by the proposed height limitations, according to Fish.

Fish cited as an example of the inadequacy of the "crude tool of zoning," the Bishop-Crescent area which has been subject to demolition, fire, conversion of housing to commercial and institutional use and the expulsion of many residents although protected by similar height zoning.

At the press conference, Save Montreal demanded comprehensive planning as an alternative to zoning by-laws. A comprehensive plan would deal with conservation, housing, land use, neighbourhoods, transportation and public involvement.

While this plan is being made by a multi-interest planning commission responsive to the public, Fish urged a temporary freeze on demolition and construction permits in the city centre area.

Fish suggested the publication of a preliminary plan as soon as possible to allow citizen input into planning. He emphasized the necessity for citizen input and respect for neighbourhoods if the compre-



Yesterday, the McGill Engineering Blood Drive collected 490 pints, but they are still 700 pints short of their goal. All donations appreciated. If you would like to help, then go to the McConnell Building Common Room.

hensive plan is to be successful.

Peter Lanken, another Save Montreal member, said that the making of a comprehensive plan was a 'big thing'. He noted that

in Toronto such a plan, not yet finished, has taken two and a half years, five million dollars and employs a staff of 50 full-time people.

All that is needed here is the

will on the part of the city government to have a better, more human city planned with citizen input, Lanken claimed. According to him this will has been totally lacking to date.

Art must be incorporated into lifestyles of all cultures

by Marc Cassini

Clifford Geertz, Professor of Anthropology at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton believes that "a definition of art cannot be inter-esthetic, but must be incorporated into the lifestyle of a people, just as other manifestations of culture are, such as political structures, kinship, and religion."

During a talk last evening delivered at McGill entitled "Art as a Cultural System", Professor Geertz stressed the place of art in primitive cultures and criticized modern esthetic concepts.

"The prevailing school of art in the West is Structuralism," said Geertz, "which constructs generalizations out of the multifaceted diversity of art. The West believes it can explain art with technical jargon."

Professor Geertz argued that while no two cultures have the same concept of art, the West refuses to acknowledge that modern art and so-called primitive art cannot be measured by the same standard.

"We are usually prejudiced by ethnocentric sentimentalism," said Geertz. "Most people consider African sculpture bush Picasso."

Geertz does not consider "primitives" unconscious artists. "They know the difference between objects of utility and objects of art. Intercultural misunderstanding arises because primitives do not

talk about art in the same way Western observers do."

Geertz quoted Matisse to express the one quality art of all cultures have in common: "Art and the feelings one expresses about life in day-to-day existence are inseparable."

Geertz selected four historical examples: two primitive cultures, the Yoruba and the Abalon, and two modern instances, Italy of the fifteenth century and the Islamic poetry of Morocco.

To the Westerner, facial lines of the Yoruba would seem rather brutish and senseless. Superficially though, Geertz said, these unique scars are simply crude methods of identification, contributing to the personal allure of the individual in much the same way the modern and painful techniques of hair-transplanting and face-lifting keep one abreast of fashion and homeliness.

"Yoruba facial lines are much more than that. The lines represent the concept of civilization for the Yoruba," he added.

Geertz points out that the verb, 'line' in the language of the Yoruba means 'slashes the bush' or 'cut a new path.'

This facet of Yoruba art deals a crucial blow to modern functionalist theoreticians who maintain that the purpose of art revolves around the repression of unwanted activity and the keeping-together of society,

said Geertz.

"Yoruba society would not disintegrate," Geertz observed, "if the people no longer created their facial lines."

Geertz' description of Abalon art further stresses the intrinsic connection of art and culture. "Abalon art is not instrumental," said Geertz. "It is semiotic—ideationally connected to society."

One example Geertz cited was the figurative and abstract painting of the Abalon in which there "is one obsessively recurring motif—the pointed oval which represents or symbolizes the belly of a woman."

Geertz added that paint as a natural product has magical force for the Abalon. "Certain colours of paint depict the creativity of women which is primary or pre-cultural, while pictorial representations of men, in other colours, renders the fact that man attains power through culture via ritual. The Abalon also realize that women, via the belly, creates man."

This subtle association between colours, motifs, and the reality of daily life demonstrates how neatly Abalon art fits into their culture.

"The unity of form and content in art," said Geertz, "is a cultural achievement and not a philosophical tautology. That both the Yoruba and Abalon can be credited with this achievement is a testimony to the intrinsic quality of their respec-

tive cultures."

Geertz added that the common response to such demonstrations is that "primitive cultures are undifferentiated vague wholes. Modern cultures, on the other hand, require differentiation."

Geertz, as he showed through the example of Italian painting and Islamic poetry, maintains that this is not the case.

Quoting a contemporary critic of Renaissance painting, Geertz said that "certain paintings necessitate certain perceptual skills. The beholder must use the skills he has acquired from society to interpret a painting. Accordingly, the artist conforms to those skills."

According to Geertz, the Holy paintings of the Renaissance would have been ineffective had the beholder not completed the painting with his own faith in the holy mysteries which again are ingrained in the individual by his culture. There was an interaction between the artist and the visualizing activity of the public.

"Islamic poetry is musical and dramatic," said Geertz, moving on to his next example, "not merely literary."

Geertz argued that the Islamic

PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Daily will be giving photo pages for any photographers. Photos on any subject may be submitted and will be returned after use. Anyone wishing to exhibit pictures should drop by the Daily office to discuss the technical aspects or phone the office (392-8955) around noon any day and ask for Bob Bellini.

DRAMA STUDENTS

The English Literature Association is holding a special meeting on Friday, Feb. 6 from 1-3pm in the ELA office (Arts B20). All students interested in the future of the Drama Programme are urged to attend. For further info call 392-4483.

INTERIM POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Very important IPC meeting today at 4 pm in Union 327. All members are urged to attend. If you can't make it, inform the Students' Society office of your replacement.

Koran is the basis of Islamic poetry.

"The Koran is a testament," continued Geertz. "Not filtered through prophets but it is supposed to be the direct speech of God. One is not supposed to peruse it but to reaffirm and relive it—that is, re-speak it."

Geertz reported that all Moroccan children learn the Koran and recite it whether its words are understood or not.

"The most mundane speeches are delivered in the stilted, liturgical form of the Koran," said Geertz. "It is the same with poetry, books, and newspapers. Verbal style is a moral matter."

Geertz added that "taken as a whole, Islamic poetry is a worldly footnote to the sacred word", which in Morocco is the ground of culture.

Geertz concluded his talk continued on page 8

letters

The Daily welcomes letters from its readership but we must insist that they be typed, triple spaced and that they should include a phone number. Bring them to the box in the Daily office in the basement of the Union.

Marketplace no excuse for army ads

To the Daily:

On January 30, the Daily published a letter from Carlos Chamorro criticizing the printing of advertisements for the Canadian Armed forces. I agree that these ads should not be run. To do so is to condone the role that the Armed Forces have in suppressing revolutionary movements inside Canada and in supporting U.S. imperialism in its oppression of Third World countries and in its preparation for world war.

Mr. Chamorro raised a very important question which the Daily refused to deal with in a serious manner. Instead of analyzing the question of what is the role of the Canadian Armed Forces as agents of U.S. imperialism and the Canadian monopoly capitalist class, the Daily sloughs off Mr. Chamorro's objection with the excuse that "the army is only the most obvious and not the most repressive expression of what's bad in our society" and no worse than the banks and big corporations. The point is, what right does the Daily have to run ads for the Canadian Armed Forces, "big corporations, banks and government agencies" which are opposed to the interests of the majority of the students and Canadian people. The Daily then moans, like Mr. Trudeau, that it also "is subject to the ways of the market economy," and cannot survive without the crumbs from U.S. imperialist corporations. If the Daily ever did take a principled stand, then it could survive without these groups. In this way, it would be possible to

have independent journalism that corresponds to the real interests of the majority of the students.

I think that Mr. Chamorro is mistaken in his characterization of the Daily that it is an "independent newspaper" and "sufficiently qualified to maintain a progressive line". What is "independent" or "progressive" about a newspaper which does propaganda in support of the two superpowers, the Canadian monopoly capitalist class and its armed forces which defend the interests of US imperialism through such military pacts as NATO and NORAD? Secondly, the writer suggests that the Daily is now becoming 'neutral' or 'liberal'. What is 'neutral' about the Daily propaganda for the fascist CIA, in the form of both articles and advertisements? What is 'neutral' about the Daily supporting Soviet social-imperialism through the MPLA in Angola? This is nothing but acting as outright agents of U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism in Canada. I think therefore that the running of the ad for the Canadian Armed forces is entirely consistent with the Daily's overall stand.

Valerie Jaeger
PhD 2

They shoot soldiers, don't they?

To The Daily:

At the risk of sounding like a redneck (I'm not), I feel that I should make known my views on the policy and quality of your publication. I have been contemplating such a letter since September, but it was not until that "apology" for printing the Armed Forces ad appeared on Friday that I felt compelled to write.

You have made it quite clear to your readers what your editorial policy is. You have expressed solidarity for socialist and popular movements throughout the world. These movements that you support have but one goal—freedom, yet your policy seems to re-

strain freedom. You print only what you think should be printed; in effect you are stifling the freedom of many individuals and organizations who feel it their right to express themselves through the medium of the student newspaper. Yes, believe it or not, the army should be allowed to advertise in The Daily; and believe it or not, there are some students who are interested in what the Canadian Armed Forces have to offer.

The Armed Forces in Canada do not centre themselves around a policy of military oppression. They serve a very constructive purpose. The Forces train young people in many professional fields, create employment and most importantly serve actively as peacekeepers in troubled areas of the world. I am certainly not a hawk, but I feel that the role of the Canadian Armed Forces is grossly misunderstood simply because people like you could not be bothered to look at it objectively. If the college newspaper continues to contemplate censorship of advertisements, then students may never be aware of some of the opportunities open to them.

There is nothing wrong with a consistent editorial policy—I only wish some of the commercial press would follow suit. However, the purpose of a newspaper is to inform first and then editorialize. What the students are told should not be determined by a handful of people who, because of their positions on the newspaper staff, are able to censor. You are running a student supported publication. You therefore have a responsibility to inform these students of everything possible and let them decide whether they are interested or not. We are all big boys and girls and can make up our own minds.

If you are to be a publication that adamantly advocates freedom, then you must allow a little freedom and flexibility yourselves, because your paper, as it is now, is the most narrow and repressive that I have ever read.

J. David Sloan
BA U1

McGILL DAILY

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Editorial offices: 392-8955

Editor in Chief: George Kopp

Managing Editor: Larry Black

Features Editor: Charlie Clark

News Editors: Rory Clarke

Katherine Gutkind

Weekly Editor: Sasha Cunningham

Business Managers: Lorne Merryweather

Norman Stark

Archives: Malcolm MacLeod

Advertising office: 392-8902

CUP Liaison: Jeff Kessler

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TAs and Med students?

To the Daily:

I was interested to read about the Teaching Assistants' negotiations in Tuesday's Daily. If they think they're being ripped off, what about us?

Upper year Medical students at Quebec universities have been paid about \$160 month over the past few years. The arrangements were poorly defined, but somehow between the hospitals, the universities, and the Quebec ministries of Education and Health, the money was found.

No more, effective next year. We did not get a cost of living raise or any new benefits. Quite the opposite—the entire idea of paying students was dropped, without our consultation.

Our work of course, is not similar to the TA's responsibilities. However, working nights and weekends at hospitals on a regular basis (often 60 hour weeks) makes part-time work nearly impossible. Summer jobs are difficult to arrange because fourth year Medical school begins about July 5th. Those students who entered Medical school from CEGEP without obtaining a first degree do not easily qualify for Quebec 'second cycle' loans. All of this puts many Medical students in a financial bind.

I can't say I feel too sorry for TAs being offered \$3750 a year for part-time work. If a TA would work ten hours per week for ten months per year, this would be about \$9.35 per hour. Compare this to a Quebec intern making about \$8000 year for 50-60 hours a week (or \$2.60 per hour).

All of this doesn't mean that

TAs don't deserve a better contract. But, if McGill can wrangle enough money from Quebec to offer TAs \$3750 a year, why do the University and its teaching hospitals stand back while Medical students' stipend falls from \$1750 to zero?

Michael Pollack
MDCM III

Kubrick's flicks not for pricks

To the Daily:

I suggest your reviewer of Barry Lyndon take a shit and then go see the picture with an open mind. This might not be too easy for him since his ass is on backwards. He missed the point of the picture completely. His total lack of awareness and his shallow mind shows in his writing.

If he wants an exciting plot with lots of action he should see a Sam Peckinpah film or rot in front of his television set watching Police Story. He should not be permitted to sit in the same room as intelligent human beings who have come to watch a truly original movie.

Kubrick's films are products of and for the mind; they have no 'stars' other than Kubrick himself.

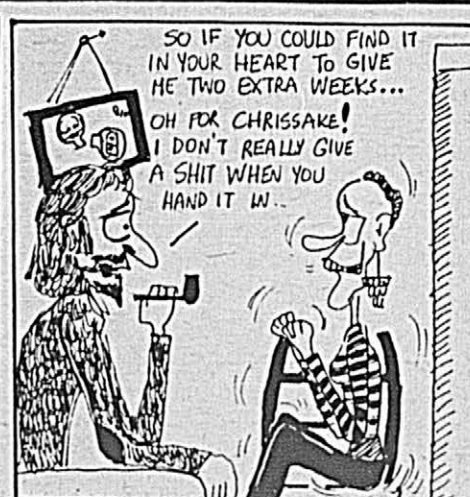
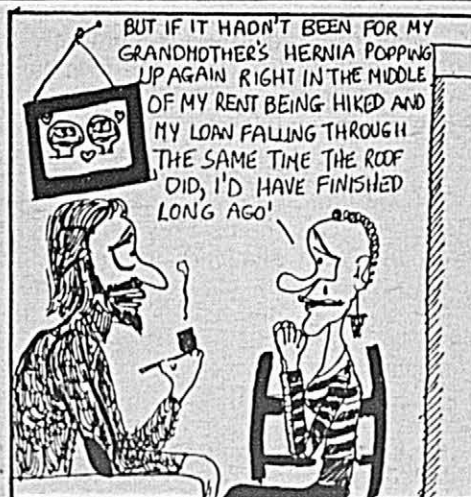
An architect does not design a building so that others can profit from it. The labourers that take part in the construction have no claim to the building's success, nor are they responsible for its failure.

Each of Kubrick's last three films are totally original. That is a remarkable thing these days.

H. Roark

hits and guts

by giovanni gray



(“ ”)

"Quote-unquote" is a new Daily department devoted to miscellaneous essays on various subjects, serious, humorous, and in between.

The sheep herd round the world; there will always be a Falkland

The Falkland Islands are a British Crown Colony located in the South Atlantic to the east of Argentina. The population is two thousand and its only major centre, Port Stanley, has a population of 1,100.

Falklands, Britain is really interested in the Islanders' welfare. "We must" quoth he, "find ways of diversifying the Islands' economy". If, in this process of diversification, oil is discovered, then all the better.

The possibility of finding lucrative things flowing beneath the Falkland Islands is particularly distressing to the Argentinian Government. Money extracted from the Colony will line coffers in London when it really should go to Buenos Aires. Of course, the Falklands have another use to the Argentinians politically. Isabel Peron is able to divert the country's attention from her Government's mismanagement by inflaming its patriotism.

The saga of Great Britain and Argentina in their dispute over the Falkland Islands took on a new sense of urgency yesterday when it was reported that an unarmed British research ship had been fired upon by an Argentinian destroyer. Almost immediately, the British protested to Buenos Aires while Argentina was protesting to London. Mischief is in the air.

The Falkland dispute has its origins in the last century when Britain took over several small islands off the South American coast which Argentina now claims. There is a small indigenous population of sheepfarmers who are vehemently British as well as a large population of sheep who have kept their air of nonchalance right through the dispute.

Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands has only recently been resurrected following the visit to the Islands of a British technical mission to investigate the Islands' possibilities, including oil. As the mission was embarking for the Falklands, Argentina asked Great Britain to remove its ambassador in Buenos Aires.

Britain's economic and technical mission, led by Lord Shackleton, ignored the Argentinian gesture and doggedly continued to explore the Falklands depths for hidden treasures. What did they find? It is too early to say yet, but the Argentinians are not happy.

Britain's economic problems are almost a cliché as the country continues to deteriorate daily. Yet, as Lord Shackleton said before leaving the

The real crux of the matter is why Argentina should want the Islands in the first place. One suggestion is that holding the Falkland Islands would give the Argentinians a base from which they could attack Buenos Aires during a future revolution.

This hypothesis, coupled with the possibility of oil and coal and gold and

diamonds and other tasty tidbits make the Islands really very attractive.

The BBC reported that the British charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires, one Mister Shakespeare, protested very strongly to the Argentinian Government following this recent episode. Britain conceded that the ship, ironically called the *Shackleton*, was carrying explosives. However, the ship is engaged in experiments for UNESCO, some of which require explosives.

After hearing of the protest, the Argentinians were quick to react. Not wanting to be outdone by the British, their Defence Department announced that the *Shackleton* had been cruising inside the country's territorial waters, and they, too, protested to Britain.

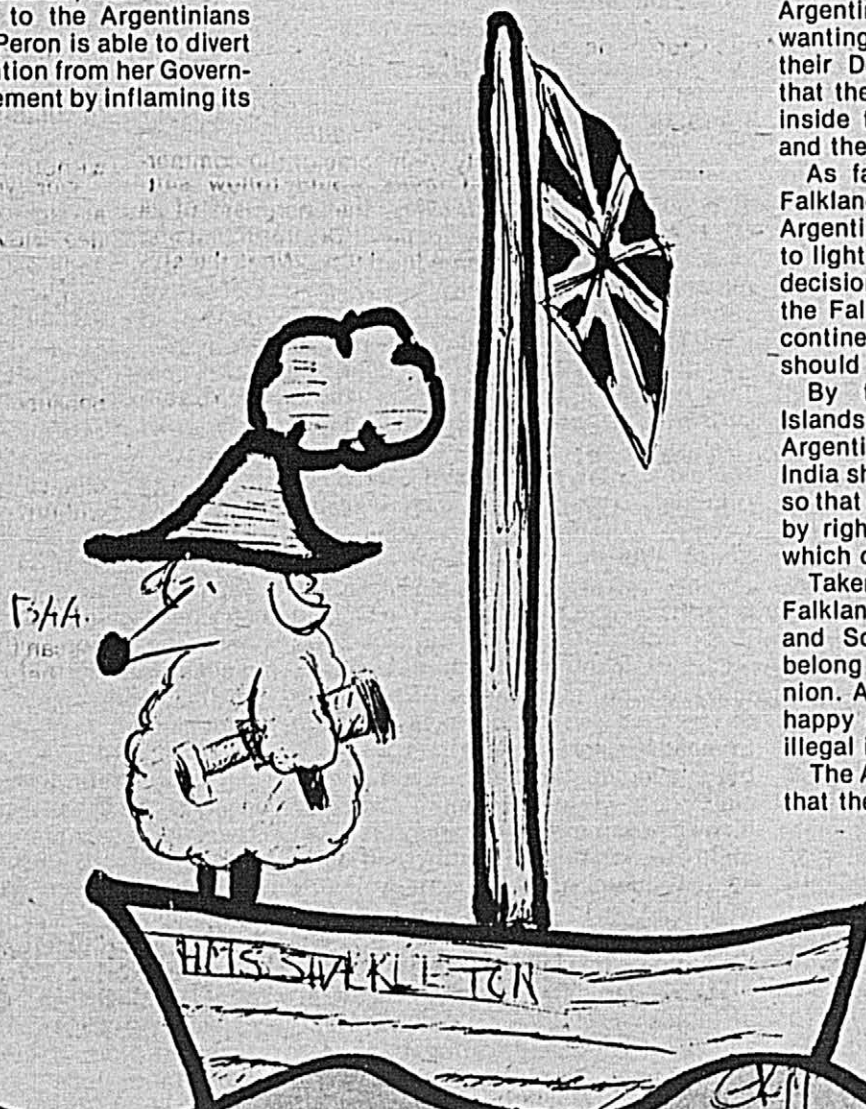
As far as they are concerned, the Falkland Islands should belong to Argentina by right. It has recently come to light that the Argentinians base this decision on one central argument. As the Falkland Islands share a common continental shelf with Argentina, they should be Argentinian.

By this argument, the Falkland Islands have just as much right to own Argentina. For that matter, Australia and India share a common continental shelf so that Australia should belong to India by right; or vice versa depending on which country you like better.

Taken a step further, Argentina, the Falkland Islands and all the rest of North and South America should by right belong to this glorious northern dominion. At least then, everyone would be happy and it would stop the flow of illegal immigration.

The Argentinians are right in thinking that there is no justice in the world.

—Michael Lewis



los mexicanos en montréal

by Jeff Kessler

What does Mexico mean to you? For many the TV has already firmly implanted the notion of desperados, fully wrapped inside bands of bullets chasing after Bogart; Jay and the Americans singing "In a little café just the other side of the border...;" at two pm everything STOPS for the mandatory siesta; of course there's the Mexican Hat Dance, "La Cucaracha," and for every college Joe there's Cuervo, Gavilan, and Sauza.

For many tourists who have been to Mexico, they know they know the country when they can conjure up visions of beautiful Acapulco, silver-laden Taxco, Mayan temples, and a screwed-up stomach.

Those up here who think they "know" Mexico might be interested to find out that there is an entire Mexican community in Montreal who also have opinions; who also "know."

Prime Minister Trudeau's return from Latin America hastens many questions about our relations with the country in which he spent the most time but accomplished the least—Mexico. Many Canadians have preconceived ideas of what Mexico is all about, but few really know what "those people from south o' de' border" think about us, especially since some of "them" live here in Montreal.

Unbeknownst to most Montrealers is a surprisingly large Mexican community in the city. Many of the Mexicans here are students, divided roughly equally between McGill, Sir George, and Université de Montréal. About fifty attend the Hansa Language Institute on the corner of Sherbrooke and Bishop.

"We come here instead of let's say, New York because Montreal offers a unique opportunity to study both English and French in their native environment," says Patricia Carbajal, who is studying English at Hansa and French at U de M.

"In Mexico," she said, "there are no intensive courses in English or French for more than three or four months."

"English is the international language." There is general agreement among the students that English is a necessity not only for dealing with American business branches in Mexico, but as a tool for better international communication. Several of the students like Arturo are looking for English-speaking roommates and one, Augustine, has gone so far as to try to talk only in English, even amongst his Spanish-speaking friends. Angel would seem to have the most incentive to learn English and get accustomed quickly to stuffy gringo ways: he will be studying economics at Yale in September.

Much of the information in this article was taken from interviews conducted in Spanish with Mexican students in Montreal over a two-week period. The students include: Maria de Carmen Santos, Dolores de la Garza, Patricia Carbajal, Arturo Martinez Lavin, Eduardo Laguna, Luis Pisa, Augustin Alvarez, Angel Luis Rocha, Rogelio Rosales. Many of the quotes can only be attributed to the group as a whole. Interviews were held in various apartments, at McGill, over the telephone, and in "Old Munich."



Luis Echevarria

The common stereotype of foreign students in Canada or in the States suggests that they are rather wealthy, privileged, and at best imbued with a feeling of "noblesse oblige" for their less fortunate "brothers and sisters" back home. Such at first might seem true for the Mexicans here—\$400 round-trip plane fare, internationally known universities, middle class clothing, aspirations for good jobs, etc.—characteristics North Americans generally tend to reserve for the middle class only in the industrialized countries.

Mexico today, however, easily defeats the old stereotypes set in the minds of gringos. Since World War Two the country has modernized at hell-bent speed. With a population of about 60 million, Mexico's annual economic growth rate of 6.5 per cent is the highest in the world for a country its size. As a result, while there has been tremendous dislocation of the campesinos because of the rapid economic growth and still tremendous poverty, Mexico also has a burgeoning middle class. It is a middle class more worldly and more critical of its own government. It is a middle class quite cosmopolitan in nature and quite contemptuous of the bigoted attitudes which seem to abound north of the Mexican border.

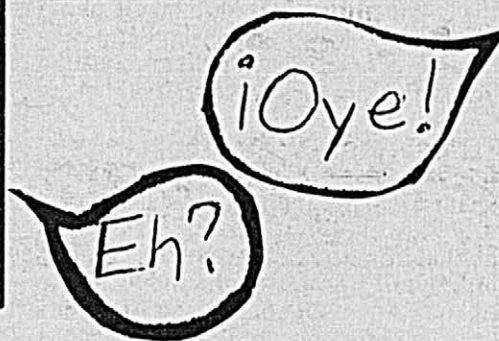
"La clima influye la gente"

The students have separate opinions of English Canadians, les Québécois, and Americans. In comparison les Québécois come out the best. Patricia and Dolores feel that the more open and flamboyant life style of French Quebecers makes friendship with them easier for the Mexicans. English Canadians are influenced more by the cold weather, according to the others and while they seem generally "amiable" to the Mexicans, they also seem aloof and less receptive to close friendship.

Perhaps the most important perceived difference between the English and French from the Mexican point of view are the ways in which social relations are conducted.

"Hay mas gente sola aqui"

"Among the English everyone seems to walk around alone. Not that people



are lonely, but it seems that individual affairs are always so important. Relations among the English always seem to be on a one-to-one basis. The French are closer to us because they like hanging around in groups, having fun...laughing and crying in groups."

In Mexico group relations seem to last longer than in Canada or in the U.S., perhaps, in part, due to stricter customs regarding pre-marital relations, but perhaps more a result of the "amistad" that almost naturally exists between groups of friends in Mexico.

"Apoderado y aprovechado"

Of course, the swift sword is reserved mainly for the U.S. and the hordes of yanqui tourists who annually inundate Mexico. Not much more need be said about the reasons behind the Mexicans' dislike of the gringos, who to them seem in too many cases power mongers, know-it-alls, "...infected with an overabundance of self-seeking capitalism."

The students, though, feel that their country is equally misunderstood by Canadians as Americans. Firstly, they cite a general northern stereotype of Mexicans: one that they are all too familiar with. "You know, there are lazy, macho, and stupid people with big hats all over the world." They all feel there is a general North American bigotry against hispanics perhaps reflected in the tales of condescending tourists of which they know a multitude.

"You know, Americans and Canadians seem to have this attitude that we have no culture or that it's a culture that we as a people have forgotten. I love the people here. I respect them. I would also hope they respect me in my country."

Carmen Santos laughed when I asked her about how the Canadian press had reported Trudeau's trip to Mexico. "Hablaron solamente de trivialidades."

"It seems the press was more concerned," she added, "about Mrs. Trudeau and Echevarria's breaking of protocol than they were about important issues. Everything reported was light and whimsical. I believe there are some truly stupid reporters up here."



Pierre Trudeau

The students noted with some melancholy, though, how much freer the press is up here than in Mexico. They say that there is censorship in Mexico, "...but now that so many students are leaving the country and making contacts in other lands, government attempts at censorship don't work very well any more, at least not in the cities."

Regardless of whether the media is or is not uncensored in Canada and the United States, the Mexicans do not believe it has the right to continue to project an inaccurate and negative picture of Latin America while painting an overly positive picture of Canada. All the students say they love Montréal, finding it both kind and exciting, but were amazed at how Canadians here could misinterpret their own culture and make value judgments about Mexico's. "Montreal is a city of fantasy," said Angel. "The people are taught about their old culture to remember it. Then they search for this culture, but it does not exist anymore. Just look at Sherbrooke Street."

The Mexicans are not able to distinguish too many differences in manner or life style between the Americans and Canadians they meet in Montréal. Perhaps this is reflected in Canada's close second-place finish for boos at the Pan-American Games held in Mexico City last Fall. In addition, it is also generally felt that the students and young people of the United States and Canada are similarly inquisitive and open-minded about "el pueblo mexicano."

"There seems to be a better common knowledge and communication between students in Mexico and up north than among their parents," said Dolores.

But there is one difference between "gringos and canadiens" that after six months here has become quite apparent to at least one female student—the accent. "The English Canadians have a better, clearer accent; it's more British," she adds. "It's the Americans who always use words like 'asshole' and 'ain't.'"

Tomorrow: Part 2—
Economic Development

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Uvex Ski 500 -Anti Fog	9.98	7.98 200
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Music:

Contemporary music for flute directed by Eugene Plawutsky. Works by Riegger, Nolan, Berio, Hindemith and Davidovsky. Thursday, 5 February, at 1 pm in Room C 310 Strathcona Music Bldg. Free admission.

Zimbabwe:

Meeting in support of the Zimbabwe's Peoples Struggle. Speaker, Michael Mawema, representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union 7:30 pm, L26.

Snow Show Car Rally:

Register today in Union for McGill Snow Show Car Rally. Entry fee is \$3.00 and prizes total \$100. Time, info, registration at Student Information Booth.

Snow Show Spaghetti Eating Contest:

Enter your team of five in this feast of gluttony. Entry is 50 cents per eater to cover the cost of the food. Register at any Snow Show Info booth.

Montreal Allouettes vs. McGill Redmen Hockey Game:

Buy your tickets today for the game next Tuesday. Admission is \$1.25 and includes a

pre-season Alouettes game.

Shampoo:

The McGill Snow Show brings you 'Shampoo' with Warren Beatty and Julie Christie at 7 and 9:30 in L132.

Women's Union:

Meeting that was snowed out will be Monday Feb 9. If you are interested in keeping the Women's Union open, come to Room 457-8 on Monday.

Tutorial College:

Meeting to discuss formation of a tutorial college at McGill. 12:30-2:00 pm, Rm. C208, MacDonald Chemistry Bldg.

Science Progressiste Science for the People:

First general meeting tonight at 7 pm in Union B47. New members are welcome.

Frosty flicks:

Arctic films sponsored by the Centre for Northern Studies & Research, Room 45, Burnside Hall 12:30-1:30 pm. "Scandinavia North" — 1. The Reindeer Herders: a Swedish documentary of an authentic Lapp family and its reindeer herd. 2. Overspill; changing lifestyles in northernmost Sweden—the depopulation of the northern forests.

Save Montreal:

General assembly. Focus on Save Montreal's housing policy.

Activities for Heritage Day will be outlined. Speakers, film, refreshments. Public welcome.

8 pm University Settlement, 3553 St. Urbain. Info: 937-7701. **Medieval Drama Society:** Auditions held in Rm. 123, Union, from 3:30-4:30 pm for Johan Johan, a comedy. If interested in working on the production please drop by. Further info: 392-4483.

Scuba Diving:

Scuba diving films being shown in rms. 305-306, Currie Gym, 6:30. Free entry. Discussion of future plans. Please attend to give suggestions. For info, contact Alasdair at 288-9595 or leave a message at the Intramural Office.

Writers' Workshop:

Do you have any literary desires? Join the Writers' Workshop and meet fellow writers. 1 pm Rm. A-350, Arts Bldg.

All submissions to the Today column which appears everyday and the What's What column which appears every Monday, must be typed triple spaced, on a full-sized sheet of paper. This, from now on, is one of life's few absolutes.

ENTERTAINMENT

Live Jazz featuring local Montreal musicians, Saturday nites, 9-1, Molson Hall, 3915 University.

The Graduates' Society presents "Darby O'Gill & the Little People" Saturday, Feb. 7th, 11 am & 1:30 pm., L-132, 50 cents.

JOBS

Help Wanted. Unique opportunity to become involved in the establishing of a token economy halfway house. If you are a mature person who needs a nice place to live [10 minutes walk from campus] & would like to have some direct experience in Behavior Modification, please call Mr. Gregory, 761-6131 ex. 284.

PERSONAL

Problem? Feel you need to rap with a rabbi? Call Israel Hausman 341-3580.

Instruction in chord progression dealing with jazz & blues—classical students welcome. Beginners welcome—phone 392-8062 or leave message for Resident Musician at 392-4274.

LOST

SR-50 CALCULATOR on Mon., Jan. 26, 11:00 am., McConnell Eng. Bldg. [2nd floor near elevators or stairwells]. Would the finder please call Gordie at 737-7091.

SNOW SHOW ICE SCULPTURE CONTEST

We're trying to bring back the old tradition of covering the campus with ice sculptures. So if you have a couple of spare hours, a touch of talent and could do with an extra \$100, get your friends together and show us what you can do. For info phone: 392-4875.

Art...

continued from page 3

with a summarization: "Art cannot be a formal science like logic or mathematics but should be a social science like history or anthropology—a natural history of signs and symbols. Art should be investigated in its natural habitat, not in abstraction. We should not study art objects alone but what makes them important."

letters

What about women sportswriters?

To the Daily:

I had written a long piece about how biased your "sports" department was in favour of men's sports over women's sports. I reminded you of your "stand" against sexism. I noted that the women put as much effort into their sports as the men, on a much lower budget. Rereading it I realized that most of this was obvious to anyone who thought about it, perhaps even the Daily's "sports" writers. I am not a sports player. I am however bothered by this

WATCH with silver-brown face—great sentimental value—lost in men's locker room of Currie Gym. Reward. 935-5379.

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Apartment to share with 2 students—\$85—on Metro—available immediately—spacious—call 849-2896.

Grad student wanted to share 4½-room furnished apt near Décarie. Call 481-6229 after 9 pm.

Apartment Wanted—McGill area. 3½ or 4½ rooms. For April 1st or May 1st. Phone Bill 392-5910 days, 738-1430 evenings.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free guitar lessons for beginners. 739-6000, Walter.

injustice. You have allowed three or four people to play out their fantasies on paper and then justified them by giving them a department of their own. They have accepted the space for a department, but unfortunately have totally neglected the principles of responsible journalism, for example, representative reporting. This is supposed to be a journal relatively representative of what happens at McGill, isn't it?

Maureen S. Cavanagh
EASU1

Management pig sty

To the Daily:

For the first time yesterday I went to the cafeteria in the Management building. I was disgusted! We are all supposed to be educated people. We come here to learn. What do you see instead? Do you really believe these people behave the same way in their own homes and get away with it? The whole cafeteria floor, tables, everything, looked like a pigs sty and about 250-300 people were sitting, chattering, smoking in that filth! Who is to keep the place clean if it is not us? We use it, don't we?

SKV.

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